

SEB'S PROJECTS

COVID RESPONSE REPORT-2021



OUR RESPONSE TO THE SECOND WAVE OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS

COVID-19 SUPPORT



The second wave of the COVID-19 outbreak had thrown India, like in many other countries, into an unprecedented and massive health and humanitarian crisis. We realized at the very start it called for a collaborative effort to meet the challenges of this second wave of the pandemic.

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We were part of the CMC exploratory discussion group whose main focus was to see how community groups can partner with CMC's COVID helpline, UDHAVI, to help the public in Vellore and neighboring districts in the time of the worsening COVID pandemic.

This initiative resulted in managing over 500 patients on a daily basis at the peak of the pandemic to access home care. It provided

- Medical support and monitored their medical needs,
- Oxygen support through portable oxygen concentrators
- Nutritional needs of the patients and caregivers during the period of home isolation
- Counseling support.

This was a valuable service when all the hospital beds were full and patients could still access medical help and support through this collaborative effort of medical professionals and community organizations.

It was very heartwarming to interact with some of the family members of the patients who benefited from this service through UDHAVI. They were so appreciative of the timely help and support they received at the time of their own crisis with several of the falling sick at the time in the family.

One woman messaged us to say she felt so reassured and encouraged that she was offered help as she was alone caring for her elderly parents-in-law who were both ill and thankfully recovered.

We thank CMC for giving us the opportunity to partner with them on the logistics of this initiative.

MEDICAL SUPPORT



Seb's Projects also provided support to underprivileged patients for COVID medication and treatment.

This wave witnessed the ravaging effect of the virus on one of our own staff member and his family. It was unfortunate that seven members of his immediate family were infected and two of them had to be hospitalized and one of them succumbing to the virus. Fortunately he was the only one who was vaccinated so hence did not fall sick and was able to care for each of them. As they live in a remote village they had no access to a government hospital nearby, and had to be admitted into a private hospital at a cost. Seb's Projects made a partial contribution to the cost of medicines and the oxygen support that was provided. The family is struggling, having gone through the trauma of loss and the after affects of the illness. This has been the experience of hundreds of families in the wake of this pandemic which has left many of them in indescribable situations, children losing both parents, families losing their sole breadwinner and unemployment leaving deep scars.

Seb's as an organization is committed to addressing social issues and will continue to see how we could deal with the pain and trauma in the aftermath of this pandemic.



VACCINATION DRIVE



Seb's Projects is on a massive drive to get as many members in our Jawadhi tribal communities to get vaccinated. We are faced with vaccine hesitancy in these communities and over the past few weeks we have been creating awareness and trying to alleviate the fears and misconceptions they have about the vaccines. All Seb's school tribal teachers and cooks have been vaccinated in the past week. We sincerely hope they will serve as role models.

We are partnering with the District Health Department and the CMC Chad hospital to organise camps in the villages to provide vaccinations in batches of 20. This will hopefully encourage more people in the community to come forward and get vaccinated.

HUMANITARIAN OUTREACH



Tribal communities in the Jawadhi Hills

In order to protect our tribal communities from going down to the villages in the plains to procure provisions and risk infection, we were able to provide dry ration food bags for 370 families in all of our Seb's school villages.

Disabled in our community

It was brought to our notice that a group of 30 disabled and blind people who otherwise earned a living selling goods on trains were out of work and had their lives disrupted. They were also provided with dry ration bags.



Vulnerable and homeless

Periodically a hot meal was provided at lunch time to the vulnerable, homeless and daily wage labourers whose work was impacted due to the lockdown. The meals were cooked by self help women's groups whose livelihood was supported by this initiative.





Seb's Projects continued with the ongoing breakfast programme in Chatram, a home for the poor patients who have come from other states in our country for treatment to CMC. They were also severely affected by the lockdown. We were able to not only provide breakfast but also dinner on most days to 50 of the residents living here. Thanks to the individual donors and committed volunteers.

The Sebastian Hunter Trust and Seb's Projects are overwhelmed by the response, we have received from our friends and supporters all over the world, who joined hands in our endeavour to reach out at this time of the pandemic to make a difference.